

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain requests for one minute addresses.

#### EDUCATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, Mark Twain once said, "Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it." Well, in a similar sense, the Clinton-Gore administration often pledges to support education, but does nothing to back up their rhetoric.

In contrast, the House Republicans have made education improvements one of our top priorities, and we are seeing results. We passed bipartisan measures to give local school districts more flexibility with education dollars, providing parents and teachers a voice in where their children's education funds are spent.

Our Teacher Empowerment Act helps teachers enhance their training and addresses teacher shortages by increasing recruitment and retention. Every student deserves to have qualified teachers.

Republicans have also led the charge for full Federal funding for the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, giving disabled students access to the best possible education.

Our children deserve quality education, and Republicans are making it happen.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### REFORM OF THE FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM NEEDED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we are engaged in a race with Mother Nature that we will most assuredly lose. In the past on the floor of this Chamber I have discussed reform of the flood insurance program, which as presently constituted encourages people to live, in fact, subsidizes people to live in places where God has repeatedly shown

that He does not want them. Currently this is a critical issue, because we are concentrating our population in areas that are near the coastline. In California alone, 80 percent of the population lives within 30 miles of the Pacific Ocean.

We have had studies, the most recent one the Heinz Report, which has shown in several of the areas that they have studied in the coastal area development has increased 60 percent in the last 20 years in high hazard areas. The report concluded for our Federal Emergency Management Agency that in the next 60 years, we will probably lose 25 percent of the structures that are located within 500 feet of the coastline. In the next 10 years alone there are 10,000 structures that are directly at risk.

Yet at the same time we are involved with a massive program attempting to reconstruct our beaches, without a sense of cost, and, in many cases with a 50-year maintenance operation, we are at work dumping the equivalent of over 3,000 truckloads of sand per day in this race with nature.

There are many States that are fortifying the coastline, virtually walling them off, keeping people away from the beaches, and, ironically, this costly effort at engineering is actually accelerating the erosion process. We are in fact making it worse by our efforts.

We are giving a false sense of security so more people live in harm's way, which increases the amount of Federal money at risk. The fortification halts the natural process of regenerating the beaches, and the construction of what are called groins and jetties in the fortification actually deflects that power further along the coast and increases the scouring action, undercutting and sweeping the beaches away. In many cases, we are doing this time and time and time again.

Since 1950, in Virginia Beach, Virginia, there have been 46 efforts at restoring that beach. It is time to stop making it worse with development and with remedial actions that are not carefully thought through.

I strongly suggest that this Congress take three important steps:

First, to revise the funding formulas, so that we are not subsidizing people living in harm's way and putting the Federal taxpayer at risk.

It is time to revise the flood insurance program. The legislation that the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and I have introduced, the Two Floods and You Are Out of the Taxpayer Pocket, would be an important step in that fashion.

Finally, and perhaps most important, it is time for us to stop having development occur in these inappropriate coastal locations.

If we take simple, common sense steps, we can end up making our communities more livable, saving the tax-

payer money and avoiding more serious problems in the future.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1660 AND H.R. 1760

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor from H.R. 1660 and H.R. 1760.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim my special order time at this point.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

#### AID FOR MACEDONIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, the first thing I would like to do tonight is to make a few additional comments regarding the colloquy held earlier today between the gentleman from Alabama (Chairman CALLAHAN), the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) and myself concerning additional aid to Macedonia. We appreciate the consideration of the chairman for additional funding for Macedonia if additional funds become available for the foreign operations appropriations.

I will include for the RECORD additional articles concerning the problems Macedonia is facing.

I want to thank Virginia Surso of the Macedonian Tribune in my home town of Fort Wayne, Indiana, for providing many of these materials that point out the sacrifices that Macedonia made to help us in the war in the Balkans, even though it was very decisive in that part of the world, and particularly with the majority of their population being orthodox and trying to keep a coalition government together, losing 400 to 600 million dollars because of their sacrifices. The least we could do would be to help those who sacrificed to help us.

#### MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

The second thing I would like to address this afternoon is an initiative, some innovative proposals on marriage and family, from Governor Frank Keating of Oklahoma. The TANF funds, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Family funds that have gone to Oklahoma, are being used to strengthen families and reduce the divorce rate. My friend Jerry Regier, Oklahoma Cabinet Secretary for Health and Human

Services, worked with Governor Keating to develop this innovative plan.

Oklahoma, as of this spring when they implemented that plan, had the second highest divorce rate in the country. Governor Keating and his wife have carried the messages of the consequences of divorce, especially when children are involved, to towns throughout Oklahoma.

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They have involved seven sectors of Oklahoma life: business, church, education, service providers, government, legal and media. Three of the four things we in the House put in welfare reform regarding TANF that had to do with marriage and family. What is unusual about this Oklahoma program, because every State is bragging about how they have reduced welfare rolls, how they have gotten people back to work and the things they have done with the family, is that it is a comprehensive program to marriage and family issues. I want to read this, and then I will insert the full remarks into the RECORD.

"Community Covenants, (religious leaders join other sector leaders in community-based solutions to reduce the divorce rate.)

"Scholar-in-residence: Oklahoma State University (national marriage expert);

"Ongoing activities to keep marriage/divorce on the public agenda;

"Statewide training/service delivery system (working with the Nation's experts to develop this system/curriculum that will provide research-based skills training);

"Marriage Resource Center (information, mentorship, et cetera);

"Research/Evaluation (in consultation with Oklahoma State University and the Nation's best marital research experts);

"Improvement of our data system (to understand more about our divorce rate and where to focus our resources);

"Second Annual Governor and First Lady's Conference on Marriage;

"Fatherhood Projects (integration of fatherhood project into the marriage initiative);

"Mother Mentoring/Children First (integration of motherhood projects into the marriage initiative);

"Support of other coalitions/services (pilot demonstration projects that will strengthen couple relationships/marriage and high-risk, vulnerable populations);

"Media (tools for influencing and changing the culture; putting issues on the public agenda);

"Charitable Choice liaison to head the State's efforts to partner with charitable and faith-based organizations to providing and delivering social services;

"Youth Education/Prevention Programs (changing the attitudes of young

people who are yet to personally confront the issues of marriage/divorce)."

Mr. Speaker, this is a comprehensive way to try to tackle what people say is something that cannot be done. Constantly here, when we hear about social problems, oh, well, problems of moral issues like teen pregnancy and divorce cannot really be dealt with by the Government. Now, here is a whole series of things that they are implementing through the course of this year in Oklahoma to try to tackle what is fundamentally one of the major problems we have in the United States when we look at teen runaways, teen suicide, child abuse. We see family breakdown at the core of this. We need innovative leaders who are willing to take some risks to experiment. Not all of these programs will work. Some of them will take longer to get started, but to look at comprehensive ways to address this.

In conclusion, what I want to point out is that compassionate conservatism is not just talk. We have governors like Frank Keating and Governor George W. Bush, who have actually implemented innovative ideas. Former Mayor Goldsmith of Indianapolis led the way at the city level. Here in the House, Members like the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and others; and in the Senate, Senator BROWNBACK, Senator SANTORUM, Senator ABRAHAM. We have innovative leaders throughout this country who have been, will be, and currently are working to try to implement creative ways from a conservative perspective to address these difficult social problems.

#### GOVERNOR FRANK KEATING CHALLENGES NATION TO TACKLE DIVORCE RATE

OKLAHOMA COMMITS \$10 MILLION TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM

WASHINGTON, DC.—Governor Frank Keating is increasing Oklahoma's stakes in the battle to reduce its divorce rate by making a significant financial commitment to address the problem. Jerry Regier, Oklahoma Cabinet Secretary for Health and Human Services, was in Washington, DC today to announce that Governor Keating is now the first governor in the country to set aside \$10 million dollars in TANF (Temporary Assistance For Needy Families) funds to be used to strengthen marriages and reduce the divorce rates.

Oklahoma has led the nation in this arena since last year when Governor Keating announced that his state was committed to doing something to reverse the fact that Oklahoma has the 2nd highest divorce rate in the country. In both his Inaugural address and his State of the State address, Keating laid out the goal of reducing the state's divorce rate by 1/3 by 2010.

Through this past year, the Governor and First Lady Cathy Keating have carried the message of the consequences of divorce, especially when children are involved, to towns throughout Oklahoma. They have developed

the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative into something unique, taking a bold step forward with each new idea. They have involved leaders from seven sectors of Oklahoma life: business, church, education, service providers, government, legal, and the media.

"When we launched this initiative, frankly some people asked Cathy and me what business the government has getting involved in marriage," says Governor Frank Keating. "But when you look at the consequences of divorce, the better question is 'What business do we have not getting involved?'"

"Divorce has staggering negative effects, both economically and socially. We cannot continue to ignore its impact. While we have turned our state's focus and attention to reducing divorce, we must now add our resources and greater action," says Keating.

TANF funds are block grant funds provided to each state and marriage is a key component of three of the four goals for that funding:

(1) "To provide assistance to needy families so that the children may be cared for in their homes or in the homes of relatives."

(2) "To end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage. . . ."

(3) "To prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies."

(4) "To encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families."

On Monday of this week, Governor Keating sent a letter to the Department of Human Services board of directors officially asking them to set aside the TANF funds. Regier and DHS Director Howard Hendrick have been meeting for months, at Keating's direction, to finalize the budget allocation and an agreement was reached late last week. Regier heads the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative for Governor and Mrs. Keating and is charged with the task of developing and implementing an effective strategy to reduce the divorce rate.

"It's with great privilege that I announce today that Oklahoma is the first state to set aside a significant amount of money for reducing its divorce rate and strengthening marriages. While other states have similar TANF resources to invest in meeting this important goal, under the leadership of Governor Keating, Oklahoma is the first to take this important step by committing \$10 million to achieve these goals," says Regier.

Even before this funding commitment, Oklahoma has already begun making important changes. During 1999, the Department of Human Services began calculating the incomes of both individuals in a cohabiting (unmarried) couple when determining assistance eligibility. No longer is there a financial incentive for couples to live together outside of marriage.

Over the coming months, Oklahoma will continue to finalize its action plan. The major components will include:

Community Covenants (religious leaders join other sector leaders in community-based solutions to reduce the divorce rate)

Scholar-in-Residence: Oklahoma State University (national marriage expert)

On-going activities to keep marriage/divorce on the public agenda

Statewide training/service delivery system (working with the nation's experts to develop this system/curriculum that will provide research-based skills training)

Marriage Resource Center (information, mentorship, etc.)

Research/Evaluation (in consultation with OSU and the nation's best marital research experts)

Improvement of our data system (to understand more about our divorce rate and where to focus our resources)

Second Annual Governor and First Lady's Conference on Marriage

Fatherhood Projects (integration of fatherhood projects into the marriage initiative)

Mother Mentoring/Children First (integration of motherhood projects into the marriage initiative)

Support of other coalitions/services (pilot demonstration projects that will strengthen couple relationships/marriage in high-risk, vulnerable populations.)

Media (tools for influencing and changing the culture . . . putting issues on the public agenda)

Charitable Choice liaison to lead the state's efforts to partner with charitable and faith-based organizations in providing and delivering social services

Youth Education/Prevention Programs (changing the attitudes of young people who are yet to personally confront the issues of marriage/divorce)

While in Washington, DC, Regier called on other leaders to join in this important goal to reduce the divorce rate in their own state.

"Setting a measurable goal is the first step in achieving your objective, and those of us in Oklahoma who are seeing the good impact of our work challenge other states to join us by setting measurable goals for reducing the divorce rate by a set amount in a time certain," says Regier. "It's difficult to reach an undefined goal."

"Just as we set an Oklahoma goal of reducing the divorce rate by 1/3, we have now also set aside a specific amount of money to achieve the objective. While the final amount of allocated resources may be more or less in the final analysis, Governor Keating, the Department of Human Services Board, and I all agreed that we must begin to move forward with a significant commitment of resources. We will not let a lack of funding deter us from meeting this goal that will positively impact Oklahomans in all walks of life," Regier concluded.

Regier was in Washington to represent Governor Keating at a press conference for The Empowerment Network (TEN). Keating is the national co-chairman of this group which today released a bold bi-partisan platform designed to translate election-year rhetoric about American renewal into measurable gains for America's communities and families.

Regier was joined at the press event by Keating's national co-chair, Senator Dan Coats (R-IN), who presented, Empowerment Blueprint 2001: Strategies for Family and Community Renewal, a "step-by-step agenda for leaders at the national, state, and local levels, and the private sector."

STATE OF OKLAHOMA,  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,  
Oklahoma City, OK.

DEAR DHS COMMISSION MEMBERS: This letter comes as a request for you to take a bold step towards meeting one of the goals I've set for Oklahoma—to reduce the divorce rate by 1/3 by 2010. I'm asking you to make a commitment to spend up to \$10 million this next year from TANF funds for strategies that will strengthen Oklahoma marriages, resulting in a reduction in divorce. In discussions between Secretary Regier and Director Hendrick, it would appear that this level of funding is an appropriate beginning for this important effort.

Because of the Oklahoma Marriage Initiative, people in all sectors of our society are

taking notice of the consequences of divorce, especially for families with children, and are clamoring for action. While this is a very new subject for policy makers, and there are a limited number of program demonstrations to build on, the overriding need makes it necessary to proceed with our best efforts.

As we continue to build our strategy for reducing the divorce rate, we must pay attention to what we can do to address couple unions in low-income populations. We must also look for strategies to strengthen two-parent families and marriages for non-needy persons in these communities. Certainly the federal government understood that when it drafted the TANF guidelines, with three of the four goals related to strengthening marriage/reducing divorce and reducing out-of-wedlock births. These four goals are:

(1) "to provide assistance to needy families so that the children may be cared for in their homes or in the homes of relatives."

(2) "to end dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work and marriage . . ."

(3) "to prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies"

(4) "to encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families."

As Commission Members, I don't need to tell you how vital it is that we devote resources to support this important goal. While some in the country are asking why the government would become involved in the issue of marriage and divorce, we know clearly the reasons because of our on-going initiative:

Many of society's ills can be traced to the rapidly declining status of marriages in this country.

Couples marrying for the first time today have at least a 50% chance of divorce.

The conflict that precedes and surrounds divorce causes great mental, physical and economic damage to parents and children alike.

The "triple threat" of marital conflict, divorce, and out-of-wedlock births has led to a generation of U.S. children at great risk for poverty, alienation, and antisocial behavior.

The decline in marriage cuts across nations, class religion and races, however it is most marked among the poor. Low-income individuals are at higher risk of out-of-wedlock childbearing, of cohabitation, are less likely to marry, and when they do marry are more likely to separate and divorce than middle or high-income couples. The proportion of children who live with only one parent has more than doubled nationally since 1970, from 12% to 28% in 1998.

This development is causing growing concern among policy makers and the public. The costs of single parenthood are most serious for children and for society as a whole. Almost half (49%) of children in female-headed households were poor in 1998. Single-parent households are five times more likely to be poor than two parent households. Studies document that children raised in single-parent homes are at greater risk of poverty, and other negative outcomes such as school drop out, juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy and themselves become divorced. Nationally, over half of the parents receiving welfare are not married to their child's other parent, nearly 20% are divorced or separated, 11% are married (DHHS, 1999).

Several major theories have been put forward to account for the nationwide decline in marriage. Certainly part of that decline can be attributed to the expansion of welfare

programs that occurred in the late 1960s and 1970s. Since these programs were targeted on single-parent families, it is often argued that the government was stepping in to take the place of others, undermining their responsibility to provide for their families and creating financial incentives to break up or discourage marriage on the theory that "you get more of what you subsidize." I applaud you for the changes you have made in DHS policy to change this trend in Oklahoma.

Now, I'm asking you to take the next step. . . . to build the capacity of our systems to strengthen marriages and reduce divorces. . . . and to provide new marital direct services to all of our Citizens statewide. Over the coming months we will be working with you to develop details of our action plan, including some of the components summarized on the attachment, and indeed DHS Director Hendrick will be vitally involved in finalizing these plans with Secretary Regier.

There are many highlights of the plan that you will hear about over the coming months, but both Cathy and I are convinced of the value of skills training for couples. Over this past year we have heard from several marital experts that relational qualities and patterns of interaction assume a much greater importance in contemporary marriages than in former times. Most of the traditional economic, legal, social and cultural constraints that used to keep marriages together have fallen away. In addition couples now have higher expectations for marital happiness—having all one's needs met by one's marital partner—and are readier to dissolve the union if they are not satisfied. The result is that there is much more pressure on couples ability to communicate well, negotiate and resolve conflict, accept each other's differences, and stay committed to working on their relationship. We must find ways to help Oklahomans strengthen these skills if they are to continue marriages in today's culture.

Over a year ago I addressed all Oklahomans in my Inaugural address and in my State of the State address to reduce the social ills that hold us back as a people and as an economy. I then asked Jerry Regier, my Cabinet Secretary for Health and Human Services, to take the lead on building this initiative on my behalf, and we've made great progress over this past year in raising public awareness about the consequences of divorce. During this upcoming year, I've told Jerry to call on the very best experts in this country to finalize and implement a strategy that will result in stronger marriages. He is available to work with you and Director Hendrick to make sure that we achieve our shared goal of reducing the divorce rate in Oklahoma, as well as the goal of TANF monies to promote and strengthen marriage.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the citizens of Oklahoma and I urge you to act now to obligate these critical funds towards achieving our goals.

Sincerely,

Governor FRANK KEATING.

#### OKLAHOMA MARRIAGE INITIATIVE

Summary of the goals of our plan:

Community Covenants (religious leaders join other sector leaders in community-based solutions to reduce the divorce rate).

Scholar-in-Residence: Oklahoma State University (national marriage expert).

On-going activities to keep marriage/divorce on the public agenda.

Statewide training/service delivery system (working with the nation's experts to develop this system/curriculum that will provide research-based skills training).

Marriage Resource Center (information, mentorship, etc.).

Research/Evaluation (in consultation with OSU and the nation's best martial research experts).

Improvement of our data system (to understand more about our divorce rate and where to focus our resources).

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Fatherhood Projects (integration of fatherhood projects into the marriage initiative).

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Support of other coalitions/services (pilot demonstration projects that will strengthen couple relationships/marriage in high-risk, vulnerable populations.).

Media (tools for influencing and changing the culture . . . putting issues on the public agenda).

Charitable Choice liaison to lead the state's efforts to partner with charitable and faith-based organizations in providing and delivering social services.

Youth Education/Prevention Programs (changing the attitudes of young people who are yet to personally confront the issues of marriage/divorce).

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL RECORDING PRESERVATION ACT OF 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, since the development of audio-recording technology in the 19th Century, composers, musicians, and others have created thousands of sound recordings that have amused, entertained, and enriched us individually and as a Nation. Sadly, as the 21st Century dawns, many of America's most precious sound recordings, recorded on perishable media, may soon be lost unless we act to preserve them for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

Today I am delighted to join the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), chairman of the Committee on House Administration, in his introduction of legislation similar to the bipartisan bill that I introduced last year to help preserve this irreplaceable aspect of our cultural heritage. I hope all Members will support this effort.

In 1988, Congress wisely enacted the National Film Preservation Act, which established a program in the Library of Congress to support the work of actors, archivists and the motion-picture industry to preserve America's disappearing film heritage. The revised bill introduced today, the National Recording Preservation Act of 2000, follows the trail blazed by the Library's successful film program.

The measure would create a National Recording Registry at the Library to identify, maintain and preserve sound recordings of cultural, aesthetic, or historic significance. Each year the Librarian of Congress would select recordings for placement on the Registry, upon nominations made by the public, industry or archive representatives; recordings will be eligible for selection ten years after their creation.

A National Recording Preservation Board will assist the Librarian in implementing a

comprehensive recording preservation program, working with artists, archivists, educators and historians, copyright owners, recording-industry representatives, and others. A National Recording Preservation Foundation, chartered by the bill, will encourage, accept and administer private contributions to promote preservation of recordings, and public accessibility to the Nation's recording heritage, held at the Library and at other archives throughout the United States.

The bill authorizes appropriations of up to \$250,000 per year for seven years to fund the Library's preservation program, and amounts over the same period to match the non-federal funds raised by the Foundation for preservation purposes.

Mr. Speaker, by enacting this modest bill and working with the private sector to leverage the available resources, the Congress can spark creation of a comprehensive, sensible and effective program to preserve our Nation's sound-recording heritage for our children and grandchildren. I urge its quick enactment.

#### REFLECTING ON FOREIGN POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am glad the gentlewoman from California is still on the floor, because I wanted to add my appreciation for her leadership in shepherding the debate on the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, knowing the gentlewoman's commitment to social justice issues. She clearly evidenced leadership on some of these very vital issues of hunger and HIV/AIDS and debt relief. Likewise, I do appreciate the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN) being willing to oversee some of the more contentious issues that we dealt with in dealing with foreign policy.

I thought it was appropriate after these last 48 hours to sort of conceptualize and summarize some of the human rights and justice issues that many times Americans do not focus on because it is or belongs to the other guys. It is foreign policy. It is those people overseas who are taking large chunks of our monies. But I want to remind this body that, in fact, the appropriations for foreign operations and foreign policy is but a sliver of the large budget of the United States of America.

But in that investment which, as I heard one of my colleagues from Alabama talk about what it would mean to an American if we invested in helping developing nations and very, very poor nations remove the heavy laden debt that they have on them, so much debt that all of their GNP is utilized not to pay the debt, but to pay the interest on the debt, almost as if all of one's income was utilized to pay for one credit card debt, and I would imagine there are some saying, that is the case; but by the fact that their GNP

dollars are used for interest on the debt that they owe to all of these world institutions, they cannot provide for health care or housing or education or basic research for some of these devastating diseases.

So that is why there was such a feel of contentiousness around such issues as whether or not we should invest more in providing debt relief for countries like Guatemala and Honduras where the individual citizen gets \$868 a month, probably less than what we would spend on a color television. In fact, our investment in debt relief may generate only \$1.28 per American, as evidenced by one of our colleagues from Alabama, maybe a Sunday newspaper, or maybe, as he said, an ice cream cone.

If we look at the world as getting smaller and smaller, I believe that we would find the need and the importance of investing and ensuring that there is peace, rather than war, that despots are not able to take over these countries again. All of the young lives that we lost in Vietnam because we were so concerned about the domino theory and communism, and now that there is some peace in the Vietnams, it is important that we maintain peace by investment, by having the opportunity for the citizens of these nations to live a quality of life not equal to the United States, but certainly a decent quality of life.

So I supported the infusion of dollars into debt relief, because I believe Americans, once educated, would understand it is investment for our own safety and security.

It is important to listen to the crisis of those in Sierra Leone, a country very far away, who are crying out for democracy; yet they are suffering, because in Sierra Leone, as in other countries, they are conscripting children to fight the wars of men. Four- and 5-year-olds are now at war because the rebels are not allowing democracy and peace to survive. That is why I offered amendments that would put more dollars into peacekeeping and brought an amendment to the floor to stop the most heinous act of drawing children into war. It happened in Vietnam; those who remember the stories of young children who were racked with bombs that attacked our soldiers or who were carrying weapons. That is what is going on in many of the developing nations. The children that refuse to go into war, their limbs are hacked off, or they are being stolen as slaves and forced to kill. One such story was told of a child, Susan, who was forced to kill someone and to watch them die when she refused to go.

So we as a country dealing with foreign policy must ensure that that does not happen. As I close, Mr. Speaker, I believe issues such as the death penalty also require our attention for justice. With that, I hope this country will rise to its higher calling.